

**PHARE 2004
STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE**

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 Cris Number: Phare 2004/016-772.06.02
- 1.2 Title: Phare end-user support for the participants of the mobility schemes of the Socrates II Community Programme
- 1.3 Sector: Community Programmes
- 1.4 Location: Romania

2. Objectives

2.1 *Overall Objective(s):*

The project will facilitate the access of Romanian university students and teachers, pre-university teachers and decision makers in education to educational and training resources in Europe, by ensuring additional funding for all Romanian students and teachers participating in the mobility schemes of the Socrates II (ERASMUS, COMENIUS 2.2 C and Arion Actions) Community Programme.

2.2. Project purpose:

To eliminate obstacles against student and teachers mobility determined, on one side, by the very limited Socrates budget for Romania, comparing to the huge level of the actual demand and, on the other side, by the scarcity of co-financing resources, available on national level; therefore, it is proposed to continue the mechanism and activities established in the previous PHARE end-users support projects in order to increase possibilities of access to European educational resources.

2.3 *Accession Partnership and NPAA priority*

The 2002 NPAA, chapter no.4.18.1 –Education, training and youth, stipulates the Romanian participation to the Socrates II Community Programme as one of the major objectives on short and medium term. This Community Programme is regarded as important support for promoting the new policies in the field of education by increasing the quality, the innovation and the European dimension of the Romanian system of education. Also, the programme is viewed as an important tool for the implementation of the future 13 objectives in education and training established by the Lisbon Council. The NPAA stipulates also an increase in financing the mobility within Socrates, using Community funds.

3. Description

3.1 *Background and justification:*

The Romanian participation to the Community Programmes represents a major step in meeting the criteria towards EU accession in the field of education, training and youth.

The Socrates Programme was implemented in Romania based on the Additional Protocol of the Association Agreement between Romania and the European Communities signed in 1994. Romania was officially admitted to participate to the Community Programmes in the field of education through the Association Council Decision no.2 /1997. The terms and the conditions for the Romanian participation to the second phase of the Socrates Programme were set in the Association Council Decision no.3 /29.09.2000.

The Phare End-User Support project will support :

- a) the higher education students` and teachers` mobility in the Socrates programme and it will focus on supporting the mobilities of the Erasmus Action ;
- b) the pre-university teachers` mobility under the Comenius Action 2.2 C. – for the participation at in-service teacher training courses
- c) the educational decision makers mobility under the Arion study visits

a) Higher education students

The statistics provided by the National Socrates Agency show that the number of student candidates for Erasmus mobilities is increasing every year.

In this respect, in the academic year 2000/2001, the demand doubled, comparing with 1999/2000 and therefore, the average Erasmus grant was about 293 Euro/month. Also in 2001-2002, the demand has doubled again (24900 student- months, comparing to 13600 student-months), which allowed an average grant of 286 Euro/month. For the academic year 2002/2003, the demand increased to 31500 student- months. At the same time, the number of participating universities has also increased, from 38 in 2000/2001, to 45 in 2002/2003.

For the academic year 2002-2003 (1-st year for the implementation of “PEUSP” RO-0109-01) the reports mentioned a total number of 2670 Erasmus students, with an average grant of 431 Euro/month (from both sources, Erasmus and Phare funds). Thanks to the PEUS project, the interest of Romanian students to participate in Erasmus programme has increased and so has the number of participating universities. Starting with 2002/2003, many private universities became eligible to participate in Erasmus programme, so that number of applying HEIs could reach 54 in 2004/2005(see table at page 4).

The request for additional Phare support is justified by the increasing interest of the Romanian students to participate in the Community programmes, on the one hand and, on the other hand, by the scarcity of the co-financing resources in Romania, due to the socio-economic situation (the possible donors- families, local communities, local enterprises or companies, universities - have still very low possibilities).

More than that, the number of eligible universities has been increased by 19 (the accredited private universities will submit the Erasmus European Charta at 1-st of November 2003), therefore, in the academic year 2005/2006 we expect a spectacular increase of the demand in terms of number of student/months. Without the Phare support, even with the co-financing from the universities` own budget we estimate an average of 80 Euro/month for an Erasmus student, which makes totally impossible for the large majority of the Romanian students to take part in a Erasmus mobility.

By continuing the provision of additional grants, from Phare funds, all higher education students participating in the Erasmus programme- and not only those coming from

wealthy families- may benefit from increased subsidies to cover living expenses during the study period spent abroad. Consequently, access to the mobility projects will be not abruptly blocked.

b) University teachers within Erasmus

The mobility of university teachers offers a valuable opportunity to have a first-hand experience about how the education process takes place in the partner university. Moreover, the participants are supposed to deliver lectures for the students from the partner university. This provision represents in itself a challenge for Romanian teachers, as they may see immediately the reaction of the students with a somehow different background. Adding up to that the exchange of views with the teachers from the home university, it may be concluded that the mobility of university teachers represents a major vector towards reaching an European dimension in Romanian Universities.

However, the grants offered within the program for the above-mentioned activities are rather symbolic ones (for example 226 Euro/week the average grant in 2002/2003). Usually the expenses must be covered from collateral funds (i.e. from incomes resulted from research activities). Consequently, we have noticed an increased number of refusals from the teachers to participate in such mobility schemes as a direct result of the lack of extra-funding.

Extending the experience of co-funding the ERASMUS grants, which has been proved most successful in the case of students, to their teachers as well, could indeed be worthy for the program as a whole. In this case, the teachers will be more motivated to prepare and deliver lectures, given in a foreign language, thus extending their teaching abilities.

c) Pre-university teachers

The statistics provided by the SOCRATES National Agency on the participation of Romanian pre-university teachers at in-service teacher training courses under the Comenius 2.2. Action (ex Comenius 3.2 and Lingua B Actions) show a considerably increased interest among the potential beneficiaries.

In 1997 (the starting year of the SOCRATES program in Romania) the rate between the number of financed participants and the number of received applications was 90%, in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 the rate is under 35% (e.g. 783 applicants and 230 selected participants in 2001-2002, 1300 applicants and 238 selected participants in 2002). In 2003 we received 1836 applications and, thanks to the Phare 2002 funds, we were able to allow to 485 selected teachers, (out of a total of about 400, 000 teachers in Romania) to attend training events organized in EU Member States.

For Romanian teachers, the participation at the European in-service training courses provides crucial knowledge and necessary experience to support the reform of the pre-university level of the education system (which started in 1995), through:

- improving the curriculum management, by creating and implementing new optional cross-curricular topics;
- initiating and exercising team work, which could initiate a change in the organisational culture in schools;
- improving the teaching and learning of EU languages;
- accelerating the use of ICT in education and initiating the e-learning;
- improving the role of the teacher as 'manager of the learning process';

- co-operation with colleagues from other countries, in order to initiate Comenius partnerships for their schools;
- introducing the European dimension in education in their schools.

The participation at Comenius in-service training courses is viewed as an opportunity, for teachers and for the whole educational system, from another perspective, as well: the European Comenius course providers are more skills and methodological oriented, they encourage the cross-curricular approach and the interactive working methods with the teachers participants, which is in line with the new strategy of the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth. According to this strategy, all the certificates obtained by the teachers through the participation at Comenius 2.2C courses will be recognised and integrated in the national system of transferable credits for in-service training. The procedure for awarding the credits is already established by an internal regulation of the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and is implemented in practice from October 2003 onwards .

More than that, the fact that a school succeeds to have a teacher participating at a Comenius course is often the single possibility of the school to find a partner for further European cooperation, for Comenius school partnerships. Therefore, schools approach this activity like the first open window towards Europe, especially schools from rural or disadvantaged areas.

The experience obtained by attending such courses is an important support for Romanian accession process in the EU, by changing mentalities and cultures. Therefore, national policy has been to give the opportunity to the largest possible number of teachers to attend Comenius courses. As a result of this policy, the grant /person is slowly decreasing and causing difficulties to the beneficiaries in terms of co-financing.

In order to allow the largest possible number of teachers to benefit from the European in-service training courses, the project proposes to continue the financing combined scheme through Socrates/Comenius and Phare end-user support grant, so that in 2005-2006 the number of participating teachers should be about 560. For the academic year 2005-2006 we will stress the priorities on the young teachers and on the teachers coming from rural areas.

d) Decision makers participating in Arion study visits

According to the statistical data, in the school year 2002/2003 in Romania there are 15.226 pre-university educational institutions and 42 school inspectorates, in each of them working, on an average, approximately 25 inspectors. This is why the number of the potential beneficiaries of Arion programme in Romania is 16 276 to which are added decision makers or policy advisors from the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and from other institutions working in the field of pre-university education (the Institute of Educational Sciences, the National Service of Evaluation and Examination, etc.).

Although Arion programme has been implemented in the member states of the European Union for 25 years, Romania has taken part in it beginning with 1997 (the starting year of the Socrates programme in Romania). During the 7 years of existence of Arion programme in our country (including the school year 2003/2004) there have participated to Arion study visits approximately 350 people, decision factors from the pre-university education, namely about 2,12% of the total. The annual percentage of the

Romanian participants to Arion study visits (as compared to the number of potential beneficiaries) is only 0, 32%.

The far limited budget allocated by the European Commission to the Romanian participants (which allows about 50 participants/year) has made the Socrates National Agency impose certain “restrictive” conditions (which do not exist in the EU Member States), such as:

- a person cannot participate but to one single Arion visit during his/her activity (except the visit organizers who can apply for a second time)
- the target group was limited (thus, in the last two years, the target group has been made up of: general school inspectors, deputy general school inspectors, inspectors in charge with international cooperation programmes, management and institutional development inspectors, directors of the Teacher Training Centers, headmasters of some educational units, priority having those from the rural areas, decision factors from the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth)
- the selection procedure is quite difficult (the nominalization is made at county level, only the persons having been nominated being able to put forth their final application) which restricts, in a way, the access to the persons interested in participating to an Arion visit.

Arion visits are a special opportunity for the process of educational reform in our country, offering the possibility of an important exchange of information and experience with professionals from different European countries. The participation of a decision factor, at local, regional or national level to an Arion study visit may cause much more rapid changes with better results, so as the reform in the Romanian pre-university education definitely lead to the harmonizing of Romanian educational objectives with the European ones.

The meeting of the decision factors from the Romanian pre-university education with their European counterpart leads not only to an exchange of information and experience as regards the educational systems in the European countries, but also to finding solutions to some common problems, as well as setting up some new partnerships, with impact at local, regional or national level.

Therefore we would like to add additional Phare funds to the Arion grant for each participant in order to allow to a largest number of decision makers- and we will focus on the headmasters in the rural areas- to participate in such study visits.

3.2 Linked activities:

The Tempus I Programme (1990- 1994) (Trans-European-Mobility Scheme for University Studies) had also achieved its objectives in reforming the Higher Education structures and management within intensive East –West and West-East mobilities.

The Socrates I Programme (1995-1999) had as its main objective to strengthen the European dimension in education by promoting the co-operation and mobility in the field of education, stimulating the exchanges between the education institutions, promoting the learning of the foreign languages. The 2-nd phase stresses once again the importance of the mobility in the field of education, as main pillar for professional and personal growth and for making educational systems compatible all over Europe.

3.3 Results:

1. Increased monthly subsidy for the participants of the mobility schemes of the Socrates II programme:

a) an increase of the **average** monthly subsidy for the students participating in the Erasmus mobility scheme; the final reports concerning the implementation of Phare 2001 project related to the academic year 2002/2003) indicate an increase of the average grant to 431 Euro/month, based on a budget of 3 MEUR. Because of a decrease of the 2002 Phare budget allocated to Erasmus students (2 678 000 Euro, as compared to 3 M in 2001), there will be a slight decrease of the monthly grant in 2003/2004. Obviously, the HEIs were recommended by the National Socrates Council and National Socrates Agency to complement the grant from their own sources. For the academic year 2004/2005 we estimate that the 3 MEUR budget allocated to Erasmus students, combined with a national strategy of co-financing, will allow an average grant of about 380 Euro/month, for an increased number of students.

The total of the grant (Erasmus+End-user) will not exceed the maximum support authorised in the Socrates Programme framework, 500 Euro.

For 2005-2006 (year of fully participation of 65 universities) we estimate a total number of 18 000 student/months, which means an average grant of 350 Euro/month/student (Erasmus+Phare+cofinancing from the universities).

- b) an increase of **average** grant for participation of the teachers at in-service teacher training courses to 1450 Euro (700 Euro from Socrates, 700 Euro from Phare and 50 Euro from teacher resources). The total of the grant (COMENIUS+End-User) cannot exceed 1500 Euro/teacher for a period between 1 week and 4 weeks, as recommended in the SOCRATES programme.
- c) an increase of average grant for participation of the university teachers in Erasmus mobility, from 205 Euro/week (estimated for 2004/2005) to 350 Euro/week (Erasmus+Phare)_

2. Increased number of participants to the mobility schemes of the Socrates II programme Erasmus students

Academic year	No of Erasmus students	No of HEIs	No granted months	Monthly grant	Erasmus funds	Phare end-user support
1998/1999	1.250	26	6.053	473 EURO/month	2.863.015	
1999/2000	1.695	32	8.970	386 EURO/month	3.471.919	
2000/2001	1.899	38	10347	293 EURO/month	3.057.091	
2001/2002	1964	43	12.000	286 EURO/month	3.156.170	

2002/2003	2670	45	14305	431 EURO/month	3.149 227	3.000.000
2003/2004	Cca. 2700	. 45	cca 15.000	Cca. 400	cca. 3.100.000	2.678.000
2004/2005	Cca. 3000	Cca. 65	Cca. 16000	380 Euro/month	Cca. 3 100 000	3 000 000
2005/2006	Cca. 3700	Cca. 65	Cca. 18000	350 Euro/month	Cca. 3 100 000	3 000 000

Erasmus teachers

Academic year	No. of Erasmus teachers	No. of HEIs	No. of granted weeks	Weekly grant	Erasmus funds	Phare end user support
2000/2001	594	38	1340	255	341272	
2001/2002	734	43	1479	226	335012	
2002/2003	734	45	1468	226	333103	
2003/2004	Cca. 734	45	1468	226	333103	
2004/2005	Cca. 850	Cca. 65	Cca. 1700	Cca. 205	350 000	
2005/2006	Cca. 1000	Cca. 65	Cca. 2000	Cca. 350	350 000	350 000

Comenius teachers

Year	No of candidates	No of selected teachers	Comenius grant (Euro)	Average grant/teacher (Euro)	Phare end-users support
1998/1999	400	361	613 700	1700	nil
1999/2000	624	385	616 000	1600	nil
2000/2001	740	309	494 400	1600	nil
2001/2002	783	230	322 000	1400	nil
2002/2003	1300	238	322 000	1350	nil
2003/2004 (estimation)	1836	485	322 000	1450	322 000
2004/2005 (estimation)	Cca. 2000	568	325 000	1450	500 000
2005/2006	Cca. 2200	568	325 000	1450	500 000

Arion participants

Year	No. of candidates	No. of selected participants	Arion funds	Average grant/participant	Phare end user support
2003/2004	146	50	60 648	1213	
2005/2006	Cca. 300	100	Cca. 60 700	1214	60 700

3.4 Activities:

Target-ERASMUS students and teachers:

1. The National Agency Socrates (NAS) will organise two training and informative seminars. The seminars will be included in the Working Programme of the NAS, to be approved by the European Commission and the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, and financed through the Operating Agreement.

First seminar:

Title: Erasmus Action 2 –Phare. Seminar for Implementation of the PEUS Project

Location: Bucharest

Duration: 1 day (April 2005)-before the selection period

Responsibles: Erasmus Action 2 co-ordinators –National Socrates Agency-

Target groups: Erasmus Institutional co-ordinators, representatives of the students' organisations, potential promoters

Second seminar:

Title: Phare End User Support Project. Seminar for Implementation of the PEUS Project

Location: Bucharest

Duration: 1 day (February 2006)-monitoring seminar

Responsibles: Erasmus Action 2 co-ordinators –Socrates National Agency-

Target groups: Erasmus institutional co-ordinators, regional co-ordinators, representatives of the students' organisations, potential promoters (Romanian members of the AEGEE) .

2. The NAS will make public all the information concerning the project and will check the transparency of the information at the university level. Means: mass media, monthly bulletins and notifications from the Ministry of Education to the educational network. The funds for supporting this kind of activities will be available through the Operating Agreement" from the budget of the NAS.

3. The Universities will run the selection of the students and the teachers, according to the rules established by the National Socrates Council in January 2005.

In July 2005 the universities must forward to NA the lists of selected students and teachers and the NA must provide these lists to the EC Delegation, for information. The possible changes in these lists, after the 1-st semester 2005, will be made available in due time to the NAS and the Delegation.

4. The Universities will send to NAS semestrial and final reports. The reports will contain special sections concerning the selection procedure and the management of the PHARE funds;

5. The NAS, together with the experts appointed by the National Socrates Council, will run monitoring and audit visits at the participating universities (a sample of 7 universities);

6. Visits will be finalised by reports submitted to The Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and National Socrates Council. During the visits, interviews, questionnaires and focus-group discussions with students, teachers and Erasmus co-ordinators will be used to measure the impact of the project.

7. At the end of the project, the Universities will send to the NAS final reports concerning the implementation of the project. On the base of these reports, NAS will draft the final report and send it to all interested parts.

b) Target- COMENIUS 2.2. teachers and Arion participants:

1. The SOCRATES National Agency will disseminate the information regarding the additional Phare funds throughout all the information activities and training seminars scheduled in the Working Programme 2004/2005, before the deadline of the 1st of March 2005 (the deadline for submitting applications for Comenius 2.2 Actions); all the information will be available on the NSA website and on the website of the Ministry of Education as well.

2. All the inspectors in charge of the international cooperations activities in each local inspectorate will be informed and trained by the regular meetings held at NAS in order to disseminate properly the information among the teachers and decision makers.

3. The selection of the applicants will be carefully ran by a selection commission assigned by the National SOCRATES Council and supported by the NAS. The selection will be based on criteria established for COMENIUS 2.2C and Arion Actions and on national priorities established by the National Socrates Council. National SOCRATES Council is entitled to approve the final lists and to take the final decision concerning the financing .The NAS will provide these lists and the standard selection-fiches to the EC Delegation for information in June 2005.

4. The NAS will evaluate the final activity report of each beneficiary in order to draw an overview of the benefits- for the Romanian educational system- of the using of Phare additional support for participants at COMENIUS 2.2C and Arion Actions This overview will be provided to the Ministry of Education , to the EC Delegation and to the National Socrates Council.

4. The NAS, together with the inspectors in charge of international co-operation activities will participate at dissemination activities organized by the beneficiaries after the participation at European courses and study visits, will apply questionnaires and will organize focus-group discussions with pupils, other teachers and managers in the educational communities of the beneficiaries in order to evaluate the impact of this activities in the educational system . An overview report will be drawn, to be sent to the Ministry of Education ,to the EC Delegation and to the National Socrates Council.

3.5 Lesson Learned

In order to provide added value to the previous project, the Ministry of Education and Research took the initiative to integrate the participation of the pre-university teachers at Comenius 2.2C courses and of the decision makers in education at Arion study visits into the national system of continuos teacher training, by issuing a new Regulation. The Regulation stipulates that a number of transferable credits will be awarded according to the type of attended courses. The Regulation entered into force starting September 2003.

In order to ensure the necessary co-financing, the obligation to co-finance the participation in Erasmus or Comenius 2.2C or Arion mobility (30 Euro for students and 50 Euro for teachers and decision makers) is a contractual clause, present in every

individual contract and strictly controlled during monitoring visits or during the checking of supporting documents attached to final reports (regular audit of files).

4. Institutional Framework

The target groups:

- students and teachers participating to the Erasmus mobility projects under the Socrates II Community Programme;
- teachers from pre-university level participating at in-service teacher training courses under the Comenius 2.2C Action.
- participants at Arion study visits.

The Ministry of Education, Research and Youth

- the Implementing Authority responsible with the national co-ordination and supervising the implementation in good conditions of the project;
- ensures the relation between the National Socrates Council, the National Socrates Agency and the EC Delegation in Bucharest.

The National Agency Socrates (NAS)

- the Implementing Agency of the project;
- implementing the selection and eligibility criteria stipulated by the Socrates National Council and the EC Delegation, for both, the selection of higher education students and teachers and pre-university teachers and Arion participants;
- setting up of the level of financing to the eligible institutions (Universities) conforming to the National Action Plan 2004/2005 for Mobility Activities under Erasmus (approved by the Commission and the National Socrates Council) and the eligible beneficiaries (teachers, decision makers) ;
- drawing, signing and sending the contracts to the interested parties: HEIs and individual beneficiaries (teachers and decision makers);
- ensuring the visibility of the project in mass-media by press conferences, interviews in newspapers, publishing materials;
- training and informative seminars with the representatives of the implementing institutions and representatives of the end-users;
- monitoring and audit visits at the participating universities and at dissemination activities organised by the teachers and Arion participants who benefited from the additional grants;
- drafting and sending interim or final reports to whom it may concern (European Commission, EC Delegation, Ministry of Education, National Socrates Council).

The National Socrates Council (NSC)

- reconfirming or adjusting, if the previous year's experience and semestrial reports from the HEI's so require, the eligibility criteria used in the Phare 2002 project for the selection of higher education students;
- establishing selection criteria for Erasmus teachers
- establishing the national priorities for the selection of pre-university teachers in line with COMENIUS 2.2 C Action and the selection of the Arion participants;
- the nomination of the independent experts in charge with the audit visits to Higher Education Institutions in order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the PEUS project in the universities;

- the nomination of the members of selection commissions for Comenius 2.2C and Arion applications;
- the approval of the final lists of beneficiaries for Comenius 2.2C courses and Arion study visits.

The Universities (HEIs)

- running the selection of the students and teachers according to the criteria established by the Socrates National Council and approved by the EC Delegation;
- sending to the NAS the final lists concerning the selected students and teachers;
- the distribution of funds towards the final beneficiaries (end users), on the base of a standard individual contract;
- submitting to NAS semestrial/final reports about the recognition of the studies made abroad, the selection procedures the management of the PHARE funds and aspects of the co-financing provided;
- make public all the information related to the additional Phare funds for the prospective Erasmus students and teachers.

Institutional arrangements

a) **The contracts “ Phare End-Users` Support for students and teachers”** will be signed between the Universities and the Socrates National Agency. The contracts are subsequent to the contracts signed between the NAS and the HEIs in the framework of the Socrates-Erasmus Programme.

The contracts will stipulate all the conditions, rights and obligations of the NAS and HEIs related to the complying with the eligibility and selection criteria as well as the reporting procedures and audit visits.

The NAS will be responsible with the preparation and the sending out of the contracts to all the participant HEIs .

b) **The contracts “ Phare End-Users` Support for teachers”** will be signed between the NAS and each beneficiary, together with the Comenius 2.2 contract. The contract will stipulate the obligation of the beneficiary to announce any related activities benefiting from the financial PHARE support.

c) The contracts “ **Phare End-Users` Support for Arion participants”** will be signed between the NAS and each beneficiary, together with the Arion contract. The contract will stipulate the obligation of the beneficiary to announce any related activities benefiting from the financial PHARE support.

The Socrates National Council, in close co-operation with the National Agency Socrates, is responsible for the establishment of the selection procedure for the end users of the PHARE support and the nomination of the independent experts who, together with the Socrates NA staff, will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the PEUS project in the universities.. A general monitoring overview will be prepared by the Socrates NA submitted to the EC Delegation.

Constraints:

- Potential financial difficulties in the year 2004, in receiving on time the SOCRATES funds or the PHARE end-users support funds.

5. Detailed Budget

	Phare			
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	End User Support	Total Phare (=I+IB)	National Cofinancing*	IFI*	TOTAL
Contract 1	4,000,000	4,000,000			4,000,000
Total	4,000,000	4,000,000			4,000,000

Co-financing

All the end users (Erasmus students) will add 30 EUR/month to their final grant from their own resources.

All the end users (Erasmus teachers, COMENIUS 2.2 teachers and Arion participants) will add 50 EUR/month to their final grant from their own resources.

6.Implementation arrangements

Implementing Authority:

Ministry of Education, Research and Youth

Contact person: prof.univ.dr Radu Damian

Secretary of State

G-ral Berthelot 28-30

Tel. (0040) 1 313 61 99, fax: (0040) 1 312 48 77

e-mail: damian@men.edu.ro

Implementing Agency:

Socrates National Agency

Contact person: Dan Sorin Vasilescu, Director

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B-dul Schitu Magureanu nr.1, Bucharest, Romania

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Non-standard aspects

The Phare-end user support is a non-standard project for the support of the final beneficiaries (higher education students and teachers, pre-university teachers and decision makers in education) of mobility schemes of the Socrates-Erasmus Programme.

Contracts

There will be two payments : 1st payment in the 3rd Q of 2005 and the second one in the 1st Q of 2006.

Estimation: 1st payment from the National Phare funds to the Socrates National Agency (total amount: 3,128.56 MEURO)

- about 65 contracts between the Socrates National Agency and the HEI's
- about 568 contracts between the Socrates National Agency and the COMENIUS 2.2 beneficiaries about 100 contracts between NSA and Arion participants
- timation: 2nd payment from the National Phare funds to the Socrates National Agency (total amount:782.140 MEURO)

7. Implementation Schedule

Start of tendering/call for proposals

2nd Q 2004

a) Start of project activity for ERASMUS students and teachers

3rd Q 2005

Project Completion for ERASMUS students

3rd Q 2006

b) Start of project activity for COMENIUS 2.2 teachers and Arion participants

3rd Q 2005

Project Completion for COMENIUS 2.2 teachers and Arion participants

4th Q 2005

8. Equal Opportunity

In applying the principle of Equal Opportunities within the Community policies, all the developed activities will ensure the equality between women and men and will eliminate inequalities resulting from various other factors (physical or mental disabilities; racial, cultural, ethnic or religious discrimination, socio-economic disadvantage etc.).

9. Conditionality and sequencing

Milestones of the project in terms of impact:

- Information campaign run by NAS; January 2005 for COMENIUS 2.2 teachers and Arion participants and first seminar-April 2005 for ERASMUS students and teachers;
- Transparent selection of the end-users -march 2005 for teachers, decision makers and July 2005 for students and university teachers;
- Signing the contracts between NAS and beneficiaries (Universities, teachers, Arion participants) ; specific payments
- Monitoring the process and processing the reports of the visits by the NAS;
- Second seminar –February 2006
- Processing the interim reports sent by the Universities (NAS)
- monitoring visits at dissemination activities organized by the end-user teachers and Arion participants after the return from the course : September-October 2006
- evaluation of the final reports of the teachers : August-September 2006
- evaluation of the final reports of the Universities : October-November 2006
- Final reports : NAS

Annex 1

Logframe Matrix for project Phare end-user support for the participants of the mobility schemes of the Socrates II Community Programme

Annex 1 to Project Fiche			Programme name: and number:	PHARE/2003/005-551.06.02
4.1 LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Phare end-user support for the participants of the mobility schemes of the Socrates II Community Programme			Contracting period expires: 30 November 2006	Contract execution period expires: 30 November 2007
			Total Budget: 4(MEUR)	Phare contribution: 4 (MEUR)
Wider Objective(s)	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured		
The project will support Romania to strengthen the European dimension in education and to facilitate wide transnational access to educational and training resources in Europe by eliminating important obstacles against the mobility of the participants to the Socrates II Community Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of the participating Erasmus students will be increased by 12%(compared to the previous academic year). The number of the participating Erasmus teachers will be increased by 15%(compared to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediary and final reports of the involved Universities, concerning the use of PHARE funds, submitted to the National Agency Socrates (NAS) Reports made by independent experts and NAS staff, at the end of the monitoring visits, submitted to MER and to the National Socrates Council (NSC); during the visits, questionnaires, interviews and focus-group discussions with 		

	<p>previous academic year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of the Romanian pre-university teachers participating at Comenius 2.2 courses will be increased by 15% compared to the academic year 2003/2004. • The number of Arion participants will double, comparing to the previous year 	<p>students, teachers and Erasmus coordinators will be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical reports made by NAS, concerning the implementation of the Socrates programme and submitted to MERY (Ministry of Education, Research and Youth) and NSC. 	
Immediate Objective (Purpose)	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured	Assumptions and Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating the obstacle represented by the scarcity of the co-financing resources, facing students mobility in the Socrates Programme, by continuing the additional grant mechanism. • Providing equal opportunities for all the students, regardless of their social and economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of applicants will increase by at least 20% (compared to the number of applicants in the previous year). • The number of the participating Erasmus students will be increased by 12%(compared to the previous academic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semestrial /final reports of the involved Universities, concerning the use of PHARE funds, submitted to NSA. • Reports made by independent experts and NSA staff, at the end of the monitoring visits, submitted to MERY and NSC; during the visits, questionnaires, interviews and focus-group discussions with students and Erasmus coordinators will be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumptions: • Comprehensive support of all institutions involved (NAS, Universities, MERY, NSC, and School Inspectorates). • Strong coordination by the NAS • Active participation of all key actors involved in the project (institutions, individuals). • Risks: - Some difficulties in running transparently the selection procedure in

<p>situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the access of a larger number of teachers (pre-university level) to European in-service training courses, in order to support the educational reform in Romania and to accelerate the process of European integration- by continuing the additional grant mechanism Enlarging the benefits of the Phare financial support to another two categories: university Erasmus teachers and Arion participants 	<p>year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of participating teachers at Comenius courses will be increased by 15%(compared to the year 2003/2004) The number of the participating Erasmus teachers will be increased by 15%(compared to the previous academic year) The number of Arion participants will double, comparing to the previous year 	<p>used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical reports made by NSA, concerning the implementation of the Socrates programme, and submitted to MERY, NSC. 	<p>universities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of trust regarding the Comenius 2.2 Action motivated by the fact that some courses are cancelled. -Potential financial difficulties (delays) in receiving on time the Erasmus funds, the Comenius funds or the PHARE –end users supports funds.
Results (Outputs)	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured	Assumptions and Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased monthly subsidy for the participants to the Socrates Community Programme Increased number of the Erasmus students and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average monthly grant will be increased from 172 Euro (without Phare funds) to 380 Euro (including 30 Euro from the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of the involved Universities, concerning the use of PHARE funds, submitted to the NSA. Reports made by independent experts and NSA staff, at the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumptions: Comprehensive support of all institutions involved (NSA, Universities, MERY, NSC, School Inspectorates). Strong coordination by the NSA

<p>teachers mobilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of pre-university teachers who will benefit from in-service training Comenius courses • Increased number of decision makers in the field of education participating in Arion study visits • Changed mentality of the actors involved in the project, concerning the issue of co-financing in the Socrates Programme • Improved skills and knowledge of the teachers at pre-university level, with up-to-date information and methodology provided by European teacher training institutions. • Better knowledge of the other European educational systems and the future objectives in education and training for EU as well, for the Romanian decision makers, as a basis for drawing new educational policies 	<p>students` own sources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of the participant students will be increased by 12%(compared to the previous academic year). • The number of participating teachers at Comenius courses will be increased by 15%(compared to the year 2003/2004); comparing with the reference year 2002/2003 (without Phare funds), the increase will be by 115 % The number of the participating Erasmus teachers will be increased by 15%(compared to the previous academic year) • The number of Arion participants will double, comparing to the previous year 	<p>end of the monitoring visits, submitted to MERY, NSC; during the visits, questionnaires, interviews and focus-group discussions with students, teachers and Erasmus coordinators will be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical reports made by NSA, concerning the implementation of the Socrates programme, and submitted to MERY, NSC. • Final activity-report submitted by each participant at Comenius 2.2 courses and Arion study visits to the NSA. • Monitoring visits made by the NSA staff and/or inspectors in charge of the international cooperation activities, to dissemination activities organized by the beneficiaries of the grants, after the course; during the visits, questionnaires, interviews and focus-group discussions will be applied to the heads of the schools of the beneficiaries, to colleagues from the same department and to the pupils; at the end of each visit, a report will be drawn and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation of all key actors involved in the project (institutions, associations and individuals). • Risks: -- Some difficulties in running transparently the selection procedure in universities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of trust regarding the Comenius 2.2 Action, motivated by the fact that some courses are cancelled by the organizers; the same risk could occur for the Arion study visits as well . -Potential financial difficulties (delays) in receiving on time the Erasmus funds, the Comenius and Arion funds or the PHARE –end users supports funds.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved teaching skills of the Erasmus teachers and valuable exchange of experience, during the teaching weeks spent abroad, as a basis for a better cooperation between the two universities • The teaching quality of teachers participating at Comenius courses will be improved • Innovation in teaching and, therefore, in the school life, will be encouraged • The European dimension at school level will be strengthened • The reform of the school education will be accelerated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of Comenius teachers and Arion participants who will obtain the recognition of the participation in Socrates mobility by the corresponding number of transferable credits will be close to 100% • The number of applications for Comenius 1 projects will increase by 15 %, as a result of a larger mobility of the educational staff 	submitted to MERY and NSC.	
Activities Target Erasmus-students and teachers: -NAS will organize two training and information seminars before the selection period (April 2005 and February 2006);			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumptions: • Comprehensive support of all institutions involved (NSA, Universities, MERY, NSC, School Inspectorates). • Strong coordination by the NSA • Active participation of all key

<p>participants: Erasmus coordinators in universities, representatives of students' associations, potential promoters</p> <p>-NAS will make public all the information concerning the project and will check the transparency of the information at the university level; means: mass-media, news-letters, leaflet, web-site</p> <p>-The Universities will run the selection of the students and teachers, according to the rules established by the National Socrates Council for the previous Phare end-user support project. If adjustments to the established mechanism prove necessary,- on the basis of the previous year's experience and the semestrial reports of the HEI's- the National SOCRATES Council will decide on necessary measures early 2005, as well as for the criteria for teachers.</p> <p>In July 2005 they must forward to NAS the lists of selected students and the NAS must</p>			<p>actors involved in the project (institutions, associations and individuals).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks: - Some difficulties in running transparently the selection procedure in universities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of trust regarding the Comenius 2.2 Action, motivated by the fact that some courses are cancelled; the same risk could occur for the Arion study visits as well. -Potential financial difficulties (delays) in receiving on time the Erasmus funds, the Comenius and Arion funds or the PHARE –end users supports funds.
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<p>provide these lists to the EC Delegation for information. The possible changes in these lists, after the 1-st semester 2005, will be make available in due time to the NAS and the Delegation.</p> <p>4. The Universities will send to NAS intermediary and final reports. The reports will contain special sections concerning the selection procedure and the management of the PHARE funds;</p> <p>5. The NAS, together with the experts appointed by the National Socrates Council, will run monitoring and audit visits at the participating universities;</p> <p>6. Visits will be finalised by reports submitted to The Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and National Socrates Council. During the visits, interviews, questionnaires and focus-group discussions with students, teachers and Erasmus co-ordinators will be</p>			
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<p>used to measure the impact of the project.</p> <p>7. At the end of the project, the Universities will send to the NAS final reports concerning the implementation of the project. On the base of these reports, NAS will draft the final report and send it to all interested parts.</p> <p>Target- COMENIUS 2.2. teachers and Arion participants:</p> <p>1. The SOCRATES National Agency will disseminate the information regarding the additional Phare funds throughout all the information activities and training seminars scheduled in the Working Programme 2004, before the deadline of the 15.03. 2005 (the deadline for submitting applications for Comenius 2.2C and Arion Actions);</p> <p>2. All the inspectors in charge of the international co-operations</p>			
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<p>activities in each local education inspectorate will be informed and trained by the regular meetings held at NAS in order to disseminate properly the information among the teachers and decision makers at local level.</p> <p>3. The selection of the applicants will be carefully ran by an external assessment commission assigned by the National SOCRATES Council and supported by the NAS. The selection will be based on criteria established for COMENIUS 2.2C and Arion Actions, by the EC. National SOCRATES Council is entitled to establish national priorities and approve the final lists. The NAS will provide these lists to the EC Delegation.</p> <p>4. The NAS will evaluate the final activity report of each beneficiary in order to draw an overview of the benefits of the using of Phare additional support for educational staff</p>			
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<p>participating at COMENIUS 2.2 and Arion activities.</p> <p>5. The NAS, together with the inspectors in charge of international co-operation activities will participate at dissemination activities organized by the beneficiaries after the participation at European courses/study visits, will apply questionnaires and will organize focus-group discussions with pupils, other teachers and managers of the origin schools of the beneficiaries or colleagues in school inspectorates, in order to evaluate the impact of this activities in the educational system . An overview report will be drawn.</p>			
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